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**THIS PAGE** Two survivors of the earthquakes in western Afghanistan, picking up a family hygiene kit provided by UNICEF. © UNICEF/UNI466880/Khanç

**COVER** Eight-year-old Ali receives a box of clothes from UNICEF after he and his family were displaced after the Syria and Türkiye earthquakes. © UNICEF/UN0844583/Issa

UNICEF Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and communities in which we and our partners work throughout Australia, and their connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and to Elders past, present, and emerging.



## Chair's report



**“To be effective advocates, we must listen to children and young people.”**

Around the world, children continue to endure the brunt of conflict and emergencies, and in a broader context, we remember the world is not a safe place for all children. This reality has made our work at UNICEF Australia more important than ever.

Last year, we dealt with many severe humanitarian emergencies, including Sudan, Yemen, and the Horn of Africa. These areas often don't receive the same public attention as sudden disasters such as earthquakes or floods, but their impact on children and their families is just as devastating. Ongoing advocacy, fundraising, and international support have been essential to help address the complex and sometimes protracted crises in these regions and provide much-needed assistance to those involved.

It's for this reason that UNICEF, with the support of our donors, plays such a vital role in providing these countries with lifesaving emergency relief, including nutrition, health care, clean water, education, child protection and psychosocial support. Thank you to everyone who supports these efforts.

When it comes to emergencies, Australians are rising to the challenge. UNICEF Australia's ability and dedication to helping children and their families demonstrates the power of collective action in addressing urgent needs and providing vital aid and humanitarian assistance worldwide.

And we've been doing this against a very challenging domestic backdrop, where many Australians themselves are doing it tough. Issues such as youth crime, homelessness, children in care and rising costs of living are making the situation incredibly tough.

We know that far too many Australian children are living in poverty. Domestically, our work needs to continue to ensure the gap doesn't widen between these children and their peers who don't experience the same disadvantage.

To be effective advocates, we must listen to children and young people. At our core, UNICEF Australia is committed to children and young people having a voice in matters that affect their lives. When every child and young person has this opportunity, we see it result in better outcomes.

This couldn't be more evident in our work to address climate change. Children and young people continue to want us to focus on this issue, and it's reflected in our work.

As heatwaves and bushfires become more frequent and have dangerous and lasting impacts on children's health and wellbeing, we will be highlighting the risks this poses to children in Australia and our near neighbours in the Pacific, and advocating for policies that protect, prepare, and prioritise children in the climate crisis.

I also want to acknowledge the innovation that has characterised our work these past 12 months. At UNICEF Australia, we've been fortunate enough to attend and represent young people at many significant events – from SXSW Sydney 2023, to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai – we've been engaging on the world stage where there's thinking and debate on key issues that young Australians care about.

Finally, I am grateful to chair a board that works so diligently to drive UNICEF's mission forward. There is a strong sense of teamwork and a shared commitment to making a difference. So, thank you to all board members and the team at UNICEF Australia for their hard work this past year.

**Ann Sherry AO**  
Chair  
UNICEF Australia

## CEO's report

In 2023, we witnessed many emergencies that shocked the world – from earthquakes and floods to conflicts and wars. Yet, throughout them all, UNICEF Australia maintained a relentless commitment to children, providing vital support and resources to alleviate the suffering of children in need.

The year began with thousands of children and families affected by a series of devastating earthquakes in south-east Türkiye and Syria. Violence escalated in Sudan and put millions of children at risk, while families in Afghanistan tried to rebuild their lives amidst natural disasters and political instability. Ukraine marked one year since the onset of Russia's invasion, a war that has deprived many children of their childhood and years of lost education.

Before violence escalated in October 2023, the State of Palestine was already facing a complex humanitarian situation. The fact that children in Gaza and those held hostage are among the primary victims of this war is a tragic reality. Children are seeing things no child should see – the loss of family, violence and destruction of their homes.

UNICEF Australia has also focused on children's needs closer to home. In Timor-Leste, we supported an innovative nature-based solution that provided communities with access to clean water while replenishing the natural environment. In Papua New Guinea, the launch of the Teenpreneurs project, saw adolescent girls in the highlands gaining valuable leadership and business knowledge, challenging existing gender norms.

When it comes to acting on our ever-changing climate, we sent our first delegation to the United Nations Conference on Climate in Dubai with two of our Young Ambassadors. Around the same time, children across Australia were 'making noise for climate' on World Children's Day and our first-ever Minute of Loudness, which saw more than 170 schools and 30,000 children participate.

The outcome of the Voice to Parliament caused some setbacks. While disappointing for many, it reminded us that UNICEF's work to address the profound disadvantage and disparity that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children didn't start nor end with this campaign. And for us, there's still work to do.

Another critical success has been the trust the Australian media has placed in us – through humanitarian storytelling and accompanying us to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, including a remote town in the Northern Territory. We value and appreciate their trust.

This Annual Report highlights many of our achievements for children in 2023.

Thank you to our generous individual supporters. I couldn't be prouder of the generosity of Australians willing to support children in need. I want to also acknowledge the funding and donations offered by the Australian Government and state governments, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Minderoo Foundation. Many of these contributions have allowed UNICEF to provide immediate lifesaving support in emergencies such as Gaza and the earthquakes, while also continuing our essential development work in the Asia Pacific region and around the world.

To our first-time donors, welcome and thank you for trusting us.

Finally, I would like to thank the UNICEF Australia team for their hard work and unwavering commitment to protecting children and young people.

**Tony Stuart**  
Chief Executive Officer  
UNICEF Australia



**“I couldn't be prouder of all the Australians who have generously donated to children who are in such desperate need.”**



# Shaping a better future for all children

UNICEF Australia is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people, with a particular focus on those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.



Discover the impact of our collaborative efforts, driven by the generosity of our supporters, throughout 2023.

As the world's largest children's charity, UNICEF is entirely funded by voluntary donations and works to protect and improve the lives of children in over 190 countries and territories, including those in some of the most dangerous and remote locations.

For over 75 years, UNICEF has advocated for children's rights, as mandated by the UN General Assembly and anchored by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In collaboration with local partners, UNICEF delivers critical lifesaving support and helps establish sustainable, long-lasting change for children in emergency and development contexts.

UNICEF Australia supports this global ambition while working to ensure that every child in need across the Asia Pacific region is healthy, educated, and safe.

With a commitment to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we're working at community and policy levels to influence local, national, and regional governments worldwide, including in Australia.

UNICEF Australia has identified Priority Programs designed to meet the critical needs of children and young people, particularly in underfunded programs in our nearest neighbouring countries. These programs aim to build futures from the very start of life, with benefits continuing into adulthood, while also raising children's voices, defending their rights, and helping them reach their potential at all stages of life. We value local partnerships for targeted advocacy and supporting community programs that reach vulnerable children.

In 2022, UNICEF Australia launched a four-year strategic plan with three key objectives:

**1** WE WILL be relentless and determined in our response to emergencies and crises, working to meet the immediate needs of children in the most effective ways possible.

**2** WE WILL be ambitious and farsighted in our partnerships and programs, seeking to deliver impact for children at scale.

**3** WE WILL be the leading advocate for children and young people in Australia, amplifying their voices and promoting their rights in all areas of society.

By pursuing these objectives, UNICEF Australia is confident that we can make a real difference in the lives of children and young people in Australia and overseas.

## About UNICEF Australia



We protect and advocate for the rights of every child in Australia and overseas.



We provide lifesaving support and protection for children during emergencies and crises.



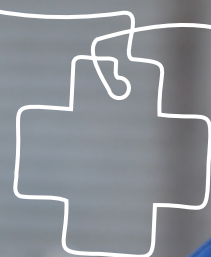
We deliver long-term international development programs across education, nutrition, healthcare, child protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

**LEFT** In a remote village in Papua New Guinea's Morobe Province, two-year-old Mafum visits a UNICEF-supported health centre for a routine check-up. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran





UNICEF Australia provided more than \$6.4 million in humanitarian support in Syria and Türkiye and almost \$1.7 million toward relief efforts in Ukraine.



# Responding to emergencies

UNICEF is always there for children and their families before, during and after an emergency.

UNICEF responded to more emergencies in 2023 than in any previous year, from natural disasters that wreaked havoc on communities already enduring compounding humanitarian situations to war and conflicts that disproportionately impacted children.

Natural disasters, such as the Syria and Türkiye Earthquakes and the Libya and Madagascar Floods, exacerbate the effects of poverty, inadequate access to clean water and sanitation, limited healthcare, and unreliable energy, transforming what was already a challenging situation into a catastrophe.

In 2023 alone, UNICEF estimated that nearly a quarter of the world's children were living in or fleeing conflict zones; this included protracted and hidden emergencies like Burkina Faso, Yemen and Myanmar. We also bore witness to renewed conflicts that ignited an unprecedented number of child rights violations in places like Sudan and the Gaza Strip.

When UNICEF responds to a crisis, it is not only concerned with providing immediate lifesaving support but continues to work to help communities recover and create more resilient communities by strengthening infrastructure for the future.

## [A series of earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye](#)

On 6 February 2023, two earthquakes and numerous aftershocks hit the south-east Türkiye and Syria border. Devastatingly, over 50,000 people were killed and tens of thousands more injured. Millions of people were displaced from their homes, and livelihoods, schools, health facilities and essential services were reduced to rubble.

With over 75 years of emergency response experience, UNICEF is on the ground within 48 hours, delivering lifesaving supplies from over 220 supply hubs.

Having been in the region for over 50 years, UNICEF's response to the earthquakes was swift and immediate. With more than \$6.4 million from generous Australian donors, UNICEF provided the children of Türkiye and Syria with lifesaving nutrition and health care, access to education, safe drinking water, hygiene kits, and psychosocial support. UNICEF continues to respond more than one year on, helping communities to recover and rebuild.

## [Conflict in Ukraine continued into its second year](#)

February also marked one year since the war in Ukraine escalated. The fighting continued throughout 2023 leaving children extremely vulnerable to disease, family separation, violence, trafficking and unexploded ordnance. Nearly 2 million students remained reliant on online education, and up to a million people lost access to safe water after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in June.

Australia's donors generously contributed \$1.7 million to support UNICEF's ongoing efforts to deliver for the 2.96 million children in need, including mental health and psychosocial support, explosive ordnance risk education, mobile health clinics, education and recreation kits.

**LEFT** In February 2023, a young girl stands among the rubble of a collapsed building in northern Syria after the devastating earthquakes hit Türkiye and Syria. © UNICEF/UN0779524/Suleiman





In October 2023, five-year-old Aya clutched her doll to ease her fear as she gazed at the sky filled with warplanes from inside a UNRWA school in the Gaza Strip. © UNICEF/UNI448738/Ajjour

## Childhoods lost in Gaza and Israel

On 7 October 2023, a surprise attack on Israel reignited a war that has caused complete devastation and immense loss. In Israel, over a thousand people were killed, and hundreds, including children, were taken hostage. In the Gaza Strip, tens of thousands of people were killed and injured, and every child in the Gaza Strip was exposed to deeply distressing events and trauma marked by widespread destruction, relentless attacks, displacement, and severe shortages of essential necessities such as food, water, and medicine.

Despite calls for an urgent humanitarian ceasefire going relatively unanswered, UNICEF and our partners remained actively present in the Gaza Strip to provide immediate lifesaving humanitarian support. As the crisis deepened, aid was hampered by border closures, unpassable roads and high-security

risks. Still, Australians rallied and generously donated over \$6.9 million within the first three months of this crisis children and their families in desperate need.

UNICEF's ongoing efforts include delivering medical supplies, ready-to-eat therapeutic food, tents, blankets, hygiene kits, bottled water, fuel for the operation of critical water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, water treatment essentials, and mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF also closely monitors grave child rights violations and provides child-sensitive humanitarian cash assistance.

## Crisis on top of crisis in Afghanistan

Marred by ongoing conflict, extreme climate shocks, disease outbreaks and economic decline, already vulnerable communities in western Afghanistan were struck by an earthquake in October. Thousands

UNICEF Australia helped to deliver vital support to 1.3 million Palestinian children and caregivers, providing access to safe water, sanitation, healthcare and psychosocial support.

of people, including children, were killed and injured, and homes and infrastructure were reduced to rubble.

UNICEF has been in Afghanistan for over 70 years, delivering for every child in need. When the earthquake hit, Australians donated around \$134,000 to UNICEF's response across health, nutrition, water, sanitation and child protection interventions.

Australian donors contributed over \$22.4 million to children in emergencies around the world.

## Beyond the headlines: silent emergencies

Throughout 2023, UNICEF responded to an unprecedented number of emergencies – from Sudan, Haiti, Myanmar, Yemen, and beyond – many of which never made the headlines of global news outlets.

In conflict and disaster, chaos and insecurity threaten or destroy access to food, water, shelter, health care and education. Every day, millions of children and their families endure incredible challenges away from the public eye, such as mass displacement, violence, disease outbreaks, extreme climate shocks, life-threatening malnutrition and an education crisis.

Sudan, which has been embroiled in a civil war since April 2023, became the largest child displacement crisis in the world, with 4 million children displaced. There was a 500 per cent increase in children killed, raped or recruited (abducted, threatened, coerced or manipulated) by armed forces to be child soldiers. Severe, acute malnutrition, the most deadly form of malnutrition, continues to threaten more than 700,000 children's lives, and about 19 million children do not have access to education. Despite these incredible challenges, UNICEF has been:

- delivering lifesaving supplies to conflict hotspots,
- providing urgent assistance to communities receiving large numbers of displaced families,
- and providing child protection services, including counselling and support.



In 2023, we also witnessed catastrophic flooding in Libya, the devastating earthquake in Morocco, disease outbreaks like the cholera epidemic in Haiti and extreme food insecurity in the Horn of Africa. There has been an escalation in hostilities in Myanmar, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the children of Yemen are in the midst of a brutal conflict, with around 80 per cent of Yemenis struggling to pay for basic essentials.

During all these emergencies, UNICEF teams responded quickly to deliver safe water and essential medical supplies to prevent malnutrition and illness. UNICEF helped new mothers give birth safely and provided lifesaving vaccines to protect children from deadly disease outbreaks.

Another integral part of UNICEF's work is helping communities recover and rebuild. This includes getting children back into school by providing teaching and learning resources, and rebuilding damaged or destroyed classrooms,

In 2023, almost 23 million people were reached with safe drinking water, thanks to support from Australia.

and providing psychosocial support to help children process and cope with their changing world.

None of this is possible without the generous support of our donors in Australia who contributed over \$22.4 million to children in emergencies around the world.

**ABOVE** Arafah cuddles her twin daughters Mawada and Mushtaha at a health facility in Sudan. Both children are enrolled in a UNICEF supported outpatient therapeutic program for malnutrition care and treatment. © UNICEF/UNI492251/Mohamdeen



# Positive change in our region and beyond



In 2023, UNICEF Australia managed 27 Priority Programs, directly reaching more than 4.5 million people. These programs were delivered in collaboration with seven UNICEF Country Offices – in Burundi, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste – along with the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

Here in Australia, we advocate for the rights of every child and provide a platform for them to participate in planning their future. In 2023, over 850,000 children and caregivers directly benefited through UNICEF Australia's domestic partners for action, and we played a key role in shaping better policies for Australian children.

**Burundi**

- Adolescent Education\*

**Cambodia**

- Adolescent Development and Participation\*
- Child Protection\*
- Early Childhood Development\*

**East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (multi-country)**

- Climate\*
- Two online child protection programs\*

**Lao PDR**

- Education\*
- Child Protection\*
- Early Childhood Development\*

**Pacific Island nations (multi-country)**

- New Vaccine Introduction

**Papua New Guinea**

- Child Protection\*
- Adolescent Education\*
- COVID-19 response
- COVID-19 vaccine rollout\*
- Convergence (multi-sector program)\*

**Solomon Islands**

- Early Childhood Development\*

**Sri Lanka**

- Child Survival (Malnutrition)\*
- Adolescent Development\*

**Timor-Leste**

- Child Protection\*
- Child Survival \*
- COVID-19 vaccine introduction
- COVID-19 vaccine rollout
- Early Childhood Development\*
- Adolescent Development and Participation\*
- Education: children learning smarter

**Vanuatu**

- Child Survival

**Australia**

- In Australia, we work to create change at scale for children through advocacy, partnerships and child and youth engagement.

**UNICEF's contribution for children**

In 2023, UNICEF Australia's contribution to children here in Australia and around the world was an incredible \$41.52 million. This result was made possible with generous contributions from the Australian public, our valued partners, and grant funding from the Australian Government and other organisations.

We continued to accelerate our domestic impact and advocacy work. In 2023, we presented 23 policy submissions to the government to improve the lives of children, and the Australian Government listened, committing \$4.2 million to better support children and youth on the issues we advocated for.

With the support of the Australian community and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, UNICEF Australia contributed \$8.67 million to its international Priority Programs, primarily across the Asia Pacific region. A total of \$22.47 million, including government funds, was also raised for emergencies, including Ukraine, the State of Palestine, Türkiye and Syria, Libya, Vanuatu, Sudan, and Madagascar. We appreciate the support of our donors and partners who have made this positive impact possible.

*\* Indicates projects receiving support from the Australian Government.*

Women and girls walking with their buckets to fetch water after the Pakistan floods displaced 10 million people.  
© UNICEF/UNI431676/Sokhin



# Our work around the world

UNICEF Australia works with partners and supports programs for lasting impact, with a focus on innovation, equity, and culturally appropriate solutions.



In a remote mountain village in Papua New Guinea, three-year-old Apsalam visits a UNICEF-supported health clinic for his regular check-up.  
©UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran



Through our Priority Programs, UNICEF Australia maximises our impact for children and young people by directly contributing to strategic and innovative initiatives that reach the most vulnerable children and families across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Our Priority Programs are achieved in close partnership with UNICEF Country Offices. They are guided by three key principles: equity and respect; transparency and accountability; and shared vision and mutual benefit. These partnerships are integral to delivering effective programming and connecting the Australian community and government with UNICEF's work in communities.

UNICEF Australia supports the Priority Programs through both funding and technical support. Our team in Australia consists of specialists in each thematic area, as well as in gender equality, disability and social inclusion, ensuring the highest quality support for successful, sustainable programs that reach individual children and strengthen systems. Priority Program funds are directed towards geographic and thematic priority areas to support initiatives that would not be possible without collaboration. The Priority Programs we support partner with governments, local community organisations, the private sector, and children and families to target inequality and accelerate the expansion of successful community-level programs. In 2023, we supported 27 priority programs across three strategic areas:

Investing in the Early Years: Addressing disadvantages in the early years so that all children get the best start in life.

Unlocking adolescent potential: Supporting young people to reach their full potential through education and leadership programs.

Protecting children from harm: Preventing and responding to violence against children and all forms of abuse and exploitation to keep children safe from harm. These programs were delivered in collaboration with seven UNICEF Country Offices – Burundi, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Pacific Islands,

## Program highlights

803,018

People immunised against preventable diseases.

11,007

Children treated for severe acute malnutrition.

10,854

Children accessing early learning.

458,792

Parents/caregivers participated in information sessions on the early years.

Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste – as well as the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia also supported one climate change specific project – UNICEF's East Asia Pacific Solar Hub – and several climate change initiatives delivered by our partner Country Offices.

With the support of the Australian community and the Australian Government, UNICEF Australia contributed \$11.4 million to Priority Programs across the East Asia and Pacific region in 2023.

Through these Priority Programs, UNICEF Australia has directly reached more than 3.7 million people, including more than 1.98 million people directly involved in the programs and 1.76 million children and adolescents engaged through online material to support mental health.



## Investing in the early years

UNICEF Australia's Investing in the Early Years Priority Programs aim to address disadvantages in the early years of life, from pregnancy to the preschool years. These programs support a critical period in a child's development, setting the foundation for their future growth and giving them the best start in life.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia supported 11 projects under the Investing in the Early Years program pillar. The projects were in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and other countries across the Pacific. With a focus on early childhood development and education, and improving neonatal, maternal and early childhood wellbeing and health, these projects achieved strong results and contributed to improving the lives of children and their families.

The projects also worked to promote gender equality and disability

inclusion. Through the Effectiveness of Integrated Early Childhood Development project, UNICEF Australia has supported the delivery of refresher training on inclusive education to 284 preschool teachers in Cambodia, enabling them to better support children with intellectual disabilities and communication difficulties. The training aimed to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all children and equip service providers to support individualised learning, promote positive behaviours and enhance overall learning outcomes for all children.

In Sri Lanka, the Addressing Undernutrition project provided lifesaving treatment to 10,473 children diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and reached 280,000 parents and caregivers with information on nutrition and infant and young child feeding.

The All Children Learning project in Lao PDR provided 6,586 children with access to quality early childhood

education in rural and remote locations. This was achieved by increasing the number of community-based school readiness centres, supporting teachers with training, and providing early learning materials and resources for use in the classroom.

**“I feel wonderful with my two babies on my chest, it feels good. It's been really great to see my baby so happy that I'm holding her.”**

– Tony, father from Vanuatu



### CASE STUDY

## Involving fathers in Kangaroo Care

The Saving Lives and Spreading Smiles project in Vanuatu has successfully contributed to shifting harmful norms and attitudes to improve newborn care. This has been achieved by working with health workers to encourage all parents - including fathers - to take part in Kangaroo Care with their babies.

Kangaroo Care is a simple, effective, low-cost intervention that can be used in any setting. In Kangaroo Care, a parent holds their baby against their bare chest, creating direct skin-to-skin contact. In places like Vanuatu, it can be the difference between life or death for premature babies.

In Port Vila Hospital, after receiving advice and encouragement from a paediatrician, a father who was caring for his twin newborns while the mother recovered from a C-section shared that Kangaroo care helped him feel close to his newborns and that he thinks all fathers should do this as part of their caregiving.

Tony and Benemwa practising kangaroo care with their twins in Vanuatu.  
© UNICEF Australia/2023/Mobbs



## Unlocking adolescent potential

UNICEF works to provide adolescents with the skills and support they need to build positive futures for themselves, their families, and their broader communities. Through its unlocking adolescent potential programs, UNICEF supports adolescents to access a quality education, gain practical life skills, influence matters that affect them, engage in decision-making processes, and participate in action that improves the wellbeing of their communities.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia supported five projects under this pillar in Sri Lanka, Burundi, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste. Projects under this pillar support adolescents and young people to develop the skills and confidence they need for life-long learning and skill development. They also help establish platforms and policies that welcome and enable adolescent participation, supporting them to become agents of positive change for the future.

As part of the Strengthening Adolescent Development and Participation project in Cambodia, UNICEF supported secondary school students to engage in local council budgeting processes, enhanced their 21st century skills - including leadership skills - and empowered them to be change-makers in key emerging issues of interest such as mental health and climate change.



### CASE STUDY

## Batting for a better future

UNICEF's Sports4Development program uses the power of sport to transcend linguistic, cultural, and social barriers, encouraging children from different backgrounds and abilities to come together and play. For children like 10-year-old Jakchan, this provides an inclusive and safe environment to enjoy the benefits of sports alongside other children.

Jakchan is from the Tamil community and is one of the youngest members of a local cricket club. He is a deaf young person and uses sign language to communicate. "I am happy," he signs about the tournament with a big smile. "I played with Muslim and Sinhala children. Before this, I was not aware of their cultures. Now I know more about them."

Jakchan (right) and his friend Kabishan at the tournament.  
© UNICEF Sri Lanka/2023

### Program highlights

17,412

People participated in adolescent projects supported by UNICEF Australia.

11,013

Adolescents participated in activities designed to challenge social norms across four projects.

41,864

Adolescents and young people participated in activities to help them build life and learning skills.



## Program highlights

# 15,000

Community members reached with messaging on the prevention of early marriage and harmful practices.

# 878

Social welfare workers received professional development/ capacity building across four projects.

# 541

Government and/or NGO stakeholders received training on the prevention of early marriage and harmful practices.

## Protecting children from harm

UNICEF is the global custodian for children in the Sustainable Development Agenda. This role includes supporting countries to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices. To achieve this, UNICEF works closely with governments to strengthen child protection systems by building and improving child protection policies, systems, and services to enhance child safety, wellbeing, and access to justice.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia supported six child protection programs in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and through UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. Through these programs, UNICEF directly reached more than 31,000 participants, making significant technical contributions to national policy and legislation, influencing regional online child safety practices, consulting young people on changing laws that affect their lives, and delivering training for frontline workers.

Programs under this pillar focus on strengthening government systems, aiming to lay the groundwork for a positive impact for all children who encounter family, community, and institutional systems.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia supported the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to develop two Guidelines, which were endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers Meeting for Social Welfare and Development and launched at the end of 2023. The guidelines provide a framework for both governments and the private sector, which will help to inform better domestic policy on online safety and work to influence best practices (particularly preventative practice) at a regional level, with online harm being a 'borderless crime'. These regional guidelines include special considerations for different vulnerabilities of boys, girls, and gender-diverse children, as well as children with disabilities, and how these might impact service provision.

## Gender, disability and social inclusion

In 2023, UNICEF Australia continued to reach the most marginalised and vulnerable children and communities through our Priority Programs. Many children and young people in countries where UNICEF works face multiple forms of marginalisation. We know that reaching the most vulnerable requires changes to legislative frameworks, designing equitable social services and transforming harmful social norms. Through promoting diversity and

removing barriers to participation and engagement, children and young people experiencing any form of marginalisation can enjoy the same rights and access to opportunities and services not only to survive but thrive.

This included working with UNICEF colleagues in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea to conduct gender and disability reviews of their programs. These reviews worked to understand barriers girls and children with disabilities face in accessing services and programs and provide recommendations to address these. UNICEF Australia also funded a gender review of UNICEF's programs in Cambodia.

Following the 2022 launch of UNICEF's first Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy (DIPAS), a global document setting a bold organisational vision and targets to advance disability inclusion, UNICEF Australia and partner CBM worked closely with the East Asia Pacific regional office to support putting this policy into practice.

UNICEF works to protect children's rights and expand opportunities for all children to reach their full potential. In Cambodia, UNICEF Australia supported the Strengthening the Effectiveness of Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Program, which aims to enhance access to quality early childhood services so that all children can meet developmental milestones in the early years. Through this program, UNICEF works closely with the national government to strengthen equity in policy planning and budgeting to improve access to comprehensive, inclusive community care and support services for children with disabilities and those most vulnerable, such as migrant children and those from ethnic minority groups. The program aims to support the full and meaningful participation of all children in early learning opportunities, allowing them to reach their potential.

## Program highlights

# 22

Projects included activities which aimed to contribute to the advancement of gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

# 21

Projects applied disability inclusion practices to break down barriers and enhance access and opportunities for children and young people.

# 10,215

People were provided with training on gender issues and women's rights.

# 19

Organisations for people with disabilities were engaged across seven projects.

# 75

Services across eight projects have become more inclusive for children with disability.



### CASE STUDY

## Inclusive education

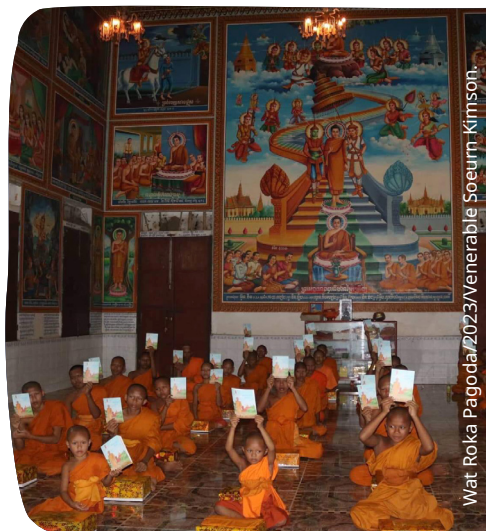
At a UNICEF Australia-supported early childhood education centre in Morobe Province, six-year-old Phillandrah is learning in a classroom for the very first time. Phillandrah is deaf and unable to speak, and until recently, she didn't have access to inclusive education.

Through the Papua New Guinea's Convergence Program, UNICEF is working in Morobe and Madang Provinces to build the capacity of early childhood educators to deliver inclusive early childhood education so that all children can go to school, learn and develop the skills they need to thrive.

Phillandrah's mother, who is a teacher, says this program is helping to give Phillandrah a positive start in life.

"In PNG, people think there aren't any opportunities for people with disabilities and that people with disabilities can't work. For myself, I have the belief and the hope that [Phillandrah] can become something and someone on her own and find work... I want her to live a life that ordinary people can live and not be left out," says Linda.

At an early learning centre in Papua New Guinea, teacher, Tane, includes six-year-old Phillandrah, who is deaf and unable to speak, in class lessons. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran



### CASE STUDY

## Pagoda program

Over 90 per cent of Cambodians follow Buddhism, and religious leaders are seen as a trusted source of cultural tradition, respect, and morality, including regarding children and other vulnerable groups.

Buddhist pagodas have an important role in communities, and UNICEF Australia is supporting the Pagoda Child Protection Program. This program builds the skills of Buddhist monks to raise awareness and educate communities on the prevention of violence against children and the importance of children growing up in families, to prevent unnecessary family separation. Positive shifts in attitudes towards child protection are already being seen in the community.





High school students in Burundi as part of the Creatable project.  
© UNICEF Burundi/2022

The power of Creatable Burundi extends beyond these products that students build in class. It lies in the creative, entrepreneurial spark that has been ignited in students who have participated in the project.

The review highlighted the strong results of the project, noting that Creatable participants and alumni have begun to apply the skills they have learned to solve other challenges they face in life, and to build better futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The review made recommendations for improvement which were used during the development of a second phase of the project.

### End of program reviews and evaluations

UNICEF Australia strategically invests in the collection of evidence to build a deeper understanding of the experiences of children and young people and to measure the impact we are having in communities.

In 2023, UNICEF Australia supported reviews or evaluations of four Priority Projects. The following highlights the results of two reviews. The Australian Government supports both projects.

#### Supporting students to thrive

Creatable, Burundi (2020-2023): This pilot project, partnering with Australian company Finch, developed four modules for 8th grade students, helping Burundian adolescents to apply science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) to solve real-world problems in their communities, from building cleaner and safer stoves in homes to purifying water with solar technology, and growing vertical, vegetable gardens that reduce the space needed to cultivate food.

#### A safe environment for every child

Child Protection in Cambodia (2021-2023): This project, strengthening the social welfare workforce and addressing harmful social norms and attitudes, sat within a multi-component program for which an independent evaluation was conducted – the outcome evaluation of UNICEF Cambodia Child Protection Programme, 2019-2023.

The evaluation found that the program has made some significant contributions to the strengthening of Cambodia's child protection system, strengthening legal and policy frameworks, operational frameworks, and capacities (particularly capacities of the social welfare workforce), along with addressing harmful norms, practices and beliefs that drive violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.

The evaluation report outlined bottlenecks and lessons learned, providing recommendations that are being incorporated into future work. UNICEF Australia is further supporting through a subsequent project: Strengthening Systems: Advancing the Right to Protection for Children in Cambodia.

## Snapshot of results in FY23



### 1,984,431

The total number of project participants across the **27 Priority Programs**. An additional 1.76 million children and adolescents were reached with activities and services to support mental health.



### 803,018

People were **immunised against preventable diseases**. This includes a higher proportion of adults than usual because of the COVID-19 response projects.



### 10,215

People were provided with **awareness raising/ training on gender issues and women's rights** (3,036 men, 5,846 women, 155 boys, 1,166 girls, 12 girls with disability; across 6 projects).



### 14,092

Children were reached with activities designed to **mitigate the impact of climate change**.



### 2,995

Frontline workers were **trained on safeguarding**.



### 1,092

Government and NGO stakeholders across **14 projects** received training as part of **systems strengthening approach**.



### 75

Services are more **inclusive of children with disabilities** across 8 projects.



### 21

Projects collected **gender disaggregated data**.



### 19

Organisations for **People with Disabilities** were involved across 7 projects.



### 14

Priority Programs across seven countries contributed to national/ sub-national **legislative or policy change** and/ or leveraged increased budget contribution to improve **child rights outcomes**.



### 11

Projects collected **disability disaggregated data**.



### 9

Gender approach: **projects gender sensitive**, 11 gender responsive, 2 gender transformative, 1 gender blind, 5 not specified.



Disability inclusion approach: **4 projects used twin track** approach to disability inclusion, 17 used a mainstreamed disability inclusion, 5 projects were not targeted.

### In-depth analysis

The following is the full list of reviews and evaluations completed in 2023.

- Evaluation of Child Protection in Timor-Leste
- End of Program Review of Creatable, Burundi
- Review of Support to Early Childhood Development in Guadalcanal Province of Solomon Islands
- Outcome evaluation of UNICEF Cambodia Child Protection Program



# Our work in Australia

Creating an Australia where every child is healthy, educated, protected, respected and involved in planning their future.

## Building a better future for all Australian children

2023 has been a challenging year for Australian children with the worsening effects of climate-driven disasters, increasing mental health concerns, and the cost-of-living crisis. We have made progress through our advocacy, research and partnership work to make Australia a better place for children.

### OUR KEY STRATEGIES INCLUDE

- Advocacy to address inequality and promote child rights.
- Convening cross-sectoral partnerships to create better outcomes for children.
- Listening to and elevating the voices of children and young people so they can have a say in policies and programs that shape their lives now and in the future.
- Researching the situation of children and young people in Australia.
- Influencing public conversation through thought leadership, research, insights, and a strong voice in the media.

### Program highlights



## 39,400

Children participated in World Children's Day, A Minute of Loudness campaign.



## 2,427

Young people consulted on issues that affect them.

**LEFT** UNICEF Australia partnered with Pathfinders to assist Australian families in registering for a birth certificate.  
© UNICEF Australia/2023/Labade



Investing in the early years

Our vision is for every child - no matter their background, where they live – to have access to all the support they need to thrive, from before birth to their first day of school and beyond.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Campaigning to achieve universal birth registration in Australia

In a nation like Australia, it could be assumed that every birth is registered. Yet many young Australians, including thousands of First Nations children, haven't got a birth certificate, which can prevent them from accessing critical services like early learning and education. In 2023, UNICEF Australia launched its first-ever public advocacy campaign, 'Certify Hope', in support of achieving universal birth registration. Our advocacy and impact included:

- Working with community partner Pathfinders across eight New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory regional towns to understand and help eliminate the barriers First Nations people face when obtaining a birth certificate or registering a birth.
- Deepening engagement through consultations with Aboriginal communities to better understand the causal factors and proposed solutions to address the issue.
- Driving public awareness of this critical child rights issue through our campaign across digital and media platforms.



CASE STUDY

Achieving universal birth registration

Aimee, who lives in a small town in New South Wales with her husband and three young children, has encountered considerable difficulties getting her son Anton into daycare, pre-school and local sporting groups, all of which require proof of identity.

"I ended up having to get a birth certificate for Anton so he could get into pre-school. So now we need to get my two younger kids their certificates for day-care and sport," said Aimee.

For many Australians, obtaining birth certificates can be a complex and costly process. While registration is free in Australia, birth certificates aren't automatically issued and come with a price tag. Along with our community partner Pathfinders, UNICEF Australia is helping to eliminate the barriers parents like Aimee face so all Australian children can see the opportunity having one brings.

Aimee with her two children registering for birth certificates at Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Labade

CASE STUDY

Jono, trials the four-day work week

Last year, Jono became one of Medibank's employees selected to participate in a four-day workweek experiment over six months. As a father of one – and another baby on the way – the opportunity to change how work gets done with the aim of unlocking greater flexibility has seen him maintain his output at work while spending more quality time with his wife and two-year-old daughter, Primrose.

"We are much more involved because we can go along to the playground, swimming lessons, and those important moments, not just communicating through a text message or a phone call," said Jono.

Thanks to Medibank's participation in the Family Friendly Workplaces Program, Jono has the flexibility to more easily balance work and home life.

Jono with wife and daughter, Primrose. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied



Making Australia family-friendly

Family-friendly workplace policies and practices are vital in fostering the wellbeing of working parents, carers, and their children. The Family Friendly Workplaces Program, which began in 2021, strives to reduce the tension between work and family by embedding and promoting policies that genuinely support employees to thrive at work and home. Through this initiative, we are encouraging Australian employers to address systemic barriers to women's workforce participation, gender inequality and support the wellbeing of families by providing policies that enable flexible work, paid parental leave and child and aged care support.

Program highlights



220

Organisations were benchmarked as family friendly workplaces in 2023, reaching 217,050 employees approx. 123,260 are women (56.79% of the total).



78

Organisations were certified as a Family Inclusive Workplace reaching 214,000 employees approx. 104,195 are women (48.69% of the total).



ABOVE Primary school children participate in UNICEF Australia's World Children's Day event, Minute of Loudness. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran

Child and youth participation

Child and youth participation is critical to all of UNICEF Australia's work. We consult and engage with young people across Australia, enabling them to become drivers of social change by strengthening platforms for participation, empowering them to create solutions to key issues, and ensuring their voices are heard by decision-makers.

"A Minute of Loudness" in celebration of World Children's Day

To celebrate World Children's Day on 20 November, UNICEF Australia launched the "A Minute of Loudness" campaign for Australian primary schools, inviting every child to get

loud about the issues that matter to them. Over 39,400 students from 173 schools from every state and territory took part.

UNICEF Australia provided participants with school packs that included free teacher lesson plans and age-appropriate classroom activities for Kindergarten to Year Six. The activities were based around the 2023 theme – Climate Change, including the innovative The Climate Future Children Want Cards. This allowed students to explore the issue and express their perspectives on environmental awareness and the changes they want to see in their community through designs, mission statements and advocacy posters.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2023 Young Ambassador Program

UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassador Program allows young people aged 15-25 to speak up for children's rights and issues affecting Australia's young people. In July 2023, we welcomed nine new Young Ambassadors from across Australia to the 18-month program.

- The Young Ambassadors learnt new skills in advocacy, media, and public presentation and worked along side the UNICEF Australia team in our key campaigns.
- In 2023, the Young Ambassadors consulted with children and

young people on climate change to develop the National Child and Youth Statement on Climate Change; two attended Conference of Parties (COP) ; they participated in Hands on Heart and learned more about the Voice to Parliament; and they participated in South by Southwest (SXSW Sydney) and what the digital future will be.

### Hands on Heart National Youth Voice Conference

In support of the Voice to Parliament referendum, UNICEF Australia partnered with the Uluru Youth Dialogue, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) and Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) to

create a space where young people from diverse backgrounds across the country could come together, learn from experts and connect. In partnership, we:

- Delivered a three-day youth conference for over 100 young people to educate, activate and connect advocates from across Australia.
- The youth advocates co-created a declaration on the Voice to Parliament and it's importance to share with the Australian public.
- After the event, young people were encouraged to educate and drive awareness on the topic in their communities through social media and events that they'd planned.



UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors Peta and Luke participate in a youth panel discussion at Conference of Parties (COP) 28 in Dubai. ©UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied

## In 2023, UNICEF Australia focused on:

- Investing in the early years: addressing disadvantage so that all children in Australia have the best start in life.
- Child and youth participation: children and young people participate and influence decisions about their lives and future.
- Children impacted by disasters and emergencies: prioritisation of the needs of children and families in crisis.
- Children and climate change: putting children at the centre of the response to climate change.
- Digital wellbeing and online safety: protecting children in the online world.
- Making children a priority in Australia: ensuring children's rights and wellbeing are prioritised by decision makers.



ABOVE UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassadors are a group of nine young people from across Australia who are committed to raising the voices of children and young people. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Labade

## Digital wellbeing and online safety

UNICEF Australia's vision is for a safe online world that also contributes to children's healthy development and wellbeing. The digital world has great potential and risks, which we seek to mitigate through our work with young people and governments.

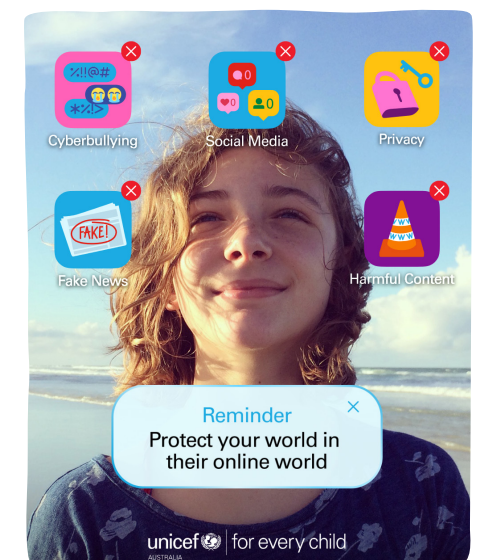
### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Working with other Australian organisations and leaders such as the eSafety commissioner we played a key role in:

- Successful advocacy on the Online Safety Codes together with others which prevented inadequate codes drafted by industry from being accepted into law, which would have left children poorly protected against the most severe forms of online content. We utilised robust

policy work, targeted government engagement, public media, and aligned advocacy with sector partners to achieve our goal.

- Securing the Government's commitment to a Children's Online Privacy Code through successful advocacy on the Privacy Act. Another combination of strong policy work, and government engagement saw a Government announcement followed by our timely support in the media to focus the public conversation on the positives for children. This had a media reach of over 2 million.
- Raising the unique needs of children in online environments through the Big Tech Senate inquiry, including giving evidence at a public hearing.



©UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied





UNICEF Australia team visits the Indi Kindi program, which actively supports early childhood development and strives to break the cycle of entrenched intergenerational disadvantage in remote and regional communities. © Sam Rutty / News Corp Australia/2023

## Making children a priority in Australia

One of our key missions is to ensure children are prioritised in government policy and funding decisions by utilising data and raising child rights issues.

### The Australian Children's Wellbeing Index

At a time when the Australian Government is implementing the Measuring What Matters budget initiative, the need for a comprehensive national data set that tracks the wellbeing of children is more urgent than ever.

UNICEF Australia partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) to create the Children's Wellbeing Index in

2021. This tool uses data to track the wellbeing of children and young people aged 0 - 24. The Australian Children's Wellbeing Index provides an important accountability tool to help focus our attention on the issues that matter most. Over time, we will see clearly where we are making progress and where it's stagnating.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Minister Amanda Rishworth launched the refreshed Index, closely aligning it with the National Early Years strategy.
- Released a deep dive into the Healthy domain of the Index that provides a stocktake of the physical and mental health of Australian children.

### Child Rights Impact Assessment Tool

Safeguarding children: Using a child rights impact assessment to improve our laws and policies in partnership with the National Children's Commissioner, the Australian Human Rights Commission, and the Safeguarding children report was launched on 25 October 2023. This included the development of a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) tool that will assist governments and service providers in the future in assessing how proposed laws, policies or programs affect children's rights and wellbeing.

# Awareness to action in the face of climate change

Climate change is changing childhood



UNICEF Australia's Climate Change is Changing Childhood campaign.  
© UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied

## 1 billion

Children worldwide are at extremely high risk from the impacts of climate change.

## 6 times

Children in East Asia and Pacific region experience six times more climate disasters than their grandparents 50 years ago.

## \$6.2 billion

The impact of climate disasters on children costs the Australian economy up to \$6.2 billion in a high disaster year.



The climate crisis is not just changing the planet; it is changing childhood. Children are uniquely vulnerable to pollution, extreme weather, and diseases linked to climate change. While children are least responsible for the climate crisis, they are the ones who bear the brunt of it. Over half the world's children are at extremely high risk from the impacts of climate change. Children's rights and unique needs must be prioritised in climate actions, investments, and policies here in Australia and around the world.

## UNICEF Australia's Climate Vision

UNICEF Australia is working with partners to drive climate-smart policies, investments and actions in Australia and across the Asia Pacific region by:

- Building the climate resilience of children in Australia and across the region, protecting them from the worst impacts of climate change.
- Driving change for and with children, elevating their voices and putting them at the heart of Australia's climate policies, actions and investments.
- Fueling ambition and growth, engaging new supporters and members of the public as advocates to protect children from the threats of climate change.
- Green our own operations, progressing on a path towards net zero and enhancing our sustainability.

## Building climate resilience in our region

To best protect children from the immediate impacts of climate change, UNICEF is working to ensure the basic services they rely on - like water, education and healthcare - are resilient to withstand climate shocks. UNICEF is also working to scale up programs that not only build climate resilience but contribute to global emissions reductions, including UNICEF's East Asia Pacific Solar Hub, which supports governments and service providers across the region to adopt solar power for the social services sector.

Through UNICEF's Adolescent Development and Participation program in Cambodia, UNICEF Australia also supports young people in developing the green skills they will need to prepare for and adapt to a rapidly changing world.



## Building climate resilience in Australia

Children are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate-driven disasters, yet they remain largely voiceless and forgotten in resilience, response and recovery programming. UNICEF Australia is working hard to place children at the heart of disaster management policies and investments. We want every jurisdiction to have a child-centric disaster framework that responds effectively to the needs of children in the face of increasingly frequent and intense climate disasters.

### Fitzroy Crossing flood disaster response needs assessment

Fitzroy Crossing, a town in Western Australia's Kimberley region, experienced record-breaking flooding in early 2023 due to ex-tropical Cyclone Ellie. This once-in-a-century flood was described as the worst ever flood to hit the remote region. In response, Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre (MWRC), a local Aboriginal community-controlled

organisation, invited UNICEF Australia and Royal Far West to undertake a community consultation to understand the unique and ongoing needs of children and young people following the disaster. The evidence gathered through this Needs Assessment with community is being used to help frame the key supports required to meet the needs of children into the future.

### Assessing the impact and cost of disasters on children and young people

UNICEF Australia commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to conduct an economic analysis on the impacts and costs of climate disasters on children and young people in Australia. It found more than 1.4 million children and young people experience a climate disaster in an average year in Australia, with those in remote areas, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and Indigenous children being more likely to be impacted. The cost of these disasters for children is around \$3.1 billion in an average year and up to \$6.2 billion in a high disaster year. This work is to encourage

governments to ensure their disaster frameworks explicitly consider the needs of children when disasters strike.

## Advocating for children and young people impacted by disasters and emergencies

Highlights from our work include:

- Generating an evidence base for change through consultations in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia - working with over 47 affected communities since 2020.
- Contribution to policy processes through submissions to the Inquiry into Australia's Disaster Resilience, the Inquiry into Commonwealth Disaster Funding and the NSW Recovery Plan.
- Engaging with key government decision-makers, including the New South Wales Reconstruction Authority and the Western Australia State Emergency Management Coordinator.

**ABOVE** Communities were affected by the 2023 floods in Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia. © UNICEF Australia/2023/O'Dell



### CASE STUDY

## Lifesaving water in Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, long dry seasons and low rainfall put incredible pressure on social services and infrastructure. Nearly 40 per cent of large community health clinics don't have access to water. In some remote communities, women walk long distances in labour, carrying their own water to hospitals without sufficient access to clean water. With 41 per cent of child deaths under five occurring in the first month of life due to preventable causes, improved water access is vital to improving child survival.

UNICEF Australia is supporting UNICEF Timor-Leste's partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste and a grassroots organisation to scale up innovative nature-based solutions, improving reliable water access for communities and healthcare centres. These nature-based solutions foster greater community engagement, equipping communities - including young people - with knowledge and skills to strengthen water catchments. Through techniques like planting native vegetation and managing groundwater consumption, this program ensures climate-resilient water supply across Timor-Leste for years to come.

Juvita Freitas da Costa, 24, with child at community health centre, Ossu.  
© UNICEF Australia/2022/Benevides



“

**It has never been more important for young Australians to be heard on the impact of a changing climate. Young people carry the greatest burden in years to come but are the least responsible for the situation."**

– Nishadh Rego, Head of Climate, UNICEF Australia

## **Driving change for and with children**

Over the past year we have been working to ensure that mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building laws, policies, and practices are explicitly sensitive to the needs of children and young people.

### **Australian Local Conference of Youth (LCOY)**

UNICEF Australia and Monash Sustainable Development Institute were invited by YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to host the 2023 Australian Local Conference of Youth. The conference aims to raise child and youth voices and facilitate greater coordination and collaboration amongst the Australian youth climate movement. Key findings and a statement from LCOY fed into the Global Youth Climate statement, which was submitted at the 2023 United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) and presented to the Australian Government. Co-led and co-designed by eight incredible youth climate change-makers, we supported five events across Australia. Overall, 100 young people participated in the events and contributed their voices to the Australian Child and Youth National Statement on Climate Change 2023.

### **Conference of Parties (COP) 28**

COP28 came at a critical time for climate. With the hottest July on record in 2023, urgent conversations were held about limiting warming, reducing emissions, phasing out fossil fuels, funding climate action, and urgently ramping up climate adaptation activities.

Hosted in Dubai, COP28 achieved important results for children. It shifted multilateral negotiations to consider child-focused and child



The UNICEF Australia team met with young climate change-makers as part of the Australian Local Conference of Youth (LCOY). © UNICEF Australia/2023/Conomos

sensitive decisions on key items, such as the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation.

The Global Stocktake evaluates progress over the past five years toward climate goals agreed in Paris, including emission reduction to limit warming below 1.5 degrees. UNICEF achieved a significant win for children by securing an in-session Expert Dialogue on the Impacts of Climate Change on Children, scheduled for June 2024 in Bonn, Germany. This is the first-ever UNFCCC-mandated event for children and provides an opportunity for governments to make concrete commitments.

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) decision at COP28 defined thematic areas of work, targets and indicators for all adaptation activities. UNICEF Australia successfully advocated to ensure thematic targets for child critical social services such as health and education were included in the decision. Global adaptation programs and investments are obliged to work towards these targets which are fully aligned with UNICEF's global programming model.

Two of UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassadors attended COP28 in

Dubai to bring the views of young Australians to the world's largest climate summit. The visit was the culmination of months of work by the UNICEF Australia-supported LCOY, a meeting of 100 young minds across the country to prepare a statement that represents the views of young people in Australia on the climate crisis. The statement was brought by UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassadors to key decision makers in Canberra in the lead-up to COP28 and informed the Global Youth Statement – the climate policy demands of children and young people from over 160 countries tabled in Dubai.

### **Creation of Children's Climate Indicators with the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University**

In an Australian first, UNICEF Australia partnered with The Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University to develop child-centred indicators for climate change.



Working with children and young people aged 10-18 years from three regions across New South Wales, this project:

- Documented and co-analysed children's experiences of climate change and climate action so that their insights could be channelled into Australian policy, advocacy, and programming.
- Developed practical child-centred indicators to measure the impacts of climate strategies based on children's own experiences.
- The project draws on the Young and Resilient Research Centre's unique co-research methods and innovative child-centred indicator processes, which have been tested and applied in 79 countries. These amplify Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure that children's and young people's voices are at the centre of policy decision-making.

## Greening our own operations

To complement our efforts in building climate resilience and driving change for and with children, we have renewed our focus on greening UNICEF Australia's internal operations.

### APPROACH

#### Target

- As an environmentally responsible organisation committed to the fight against climate change, UNICEF Australia is committed to progressing on a path towards net zero; greening our operations.

#### Monitor

- Monitoring our carbon footprint consistently is essential to track progress towards our environment targets.
- UNICEF Australia commits to reporting 1 on all scope 1 & 2 emissions with scope 3 emissions where a reliable estimate can be formed.

### Reduce

- Our internal sustainability strategy is all about taking action.
- UNICEF Australia will adopt a mitigation hierarchy that seeks to avoid and reduce emissions as a priority before offsetting residual emissions.

### 2023 Emissions

In 2023, UNICEF Australia witnessed growth in our organisation and an increase in employee headcount. Consequently, our total emissions from all scope 1 & 2 activities and reliably measured scope 3 factors rose from 349tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 462tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Per employee emissions were broadly consistent with 2022 levels.

### KEY INITIATIVES

**GreenPower** – UNICEF Australia has transitioned its energy usage to a 100 per cent renewable plan certified under the Australian Government scheme with electricity sourced from the sun, wind, water and bioenergy. Through transition to the green energy, UNICEF Australia will prevent approximately 30t CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per annum in future based on 2023 electricity usage rates.

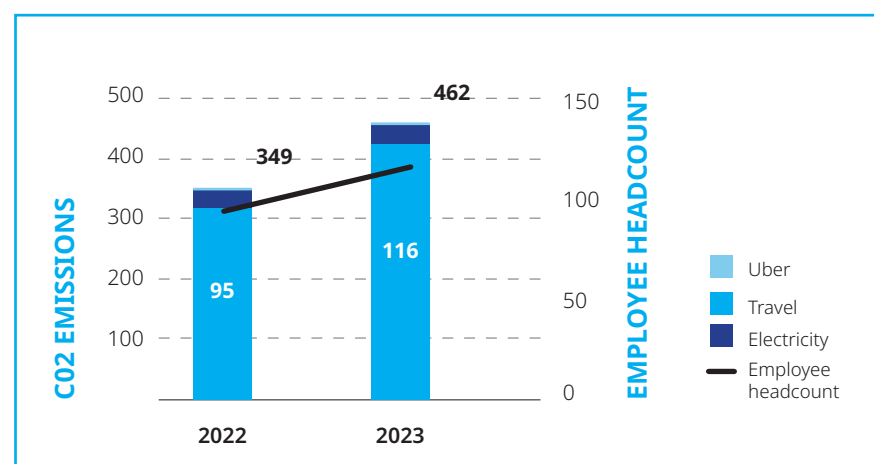
**Travel** – UNICEF Australia has refreshed its travel policy to include sustainability as a core consideration in travel arrangements. Whilst acknowledging that travel is an integral part of our work, we are

committed to reducing unnecessary travel and using lower-carbon methods of transport. Employees are encouraged to use public transport or electric vehicles wherever possible whilst we will prioritise the use of fuel-efficient aircraft and selection of airlines with greater use of Sustainable Airline Fuel.

**Investments** – UNICEF Australia has renewed its short-term deposits policy, maintaining a low-risk investment approach to safeguard critical funding, but opening up to greater diversity in banking partners to allow for placement of deposits with institutions that do not finance or are actively reducing their financial support to the fossil fuel industry.

**Meaningful Offsets** – Whilst we focus our efforts on reducing our gross emissions, given the nature of our work and criticality of travel to program implementation, a proportion of residual emissions persist in our activity. UNICEF Australia has purchased carbon credits to offset 2023 measured emissions; covering all scope 1 and 2 emissions together with scope 3 emissions arising from our flights, ground transport and accommodation bookings.

Through these initiatives and our continuing focus on waste management and procurement, we aim not only to reduce our carbon emissions but also to foster a culture of sustainability within our workforce.



# Australian Government funding

In 2023, UNICEF Australia received support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). As an accredited organisation under the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), which is responsible for overseeing Australia's development initiatives, the Australian Government rigorously reviews UNICEF Australia's systems, policies, and processes, providing assurance of accountability, the effective use of funds, risk management, and continuous improvement.

UNICEF Australia is one of 43 Australian NGOs with full accreditation and is allocated funding on an annual basis. In 2023, we received \$4,233,439 in ANCP funding, which is combined

with donations from the Australian public and the private sector to extend our Priority Programs and achieve results for children.

In addition to the funding received through the ANCP, in partnership with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, UNICEF Australia received \$359,436 from DFAT for a grant focused on immunisation in Indonesia; \$3,360,000 from State and Territory Governments (Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory) and \$87,105 from other government organisations (including City of Sydney, Brisbane City Council and Cumberland Council), towards the emergency

response to the earthquake affecting Türkiye and Syria; \$750,000 from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for the Family Friendly Workplaces initiative; \$13,860 from the Department of Industry for the Australian Youth Engagement program.

UNICEF Australia is an independent registered charitable entity, subject to Australian regulations and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) Status and a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development's Code of Conduct.

### Direct funds to UNICEF

In addition to the funds received by UNICEF Australia, the Australian Government contributed more than \$106,651,912.72 million in direct funding to UNICEF in 2023.

This included support to emergencies and programs such as UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and response in Gaza, the earthquake response in Syria, immunisation programs across Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and education in Myanmar.





# Our partners and corporate supporters

UNICEF Australia sincerely thanks the many partners who supported us in 2023. These companies, along with their staff, customers, and stakeholders, exemplify unwavering determination in sharing our commitment to promote and protect the rights of every child, no matter what.



CommBank supports UNICEF Australia with emergency funding via their staff, foundation and through their 15th year, the Coins for Kids program. Now in its 15th year, this program that continues to operate across all bank branches, encouraging customers to donate foreign currency to help the world's most vulnerable children.



Gilbert + Tobin supported UNICEF in 2023 with significant donations to a number of emergencies, including relief efforts in Syria and Türkiye following the earthquakes and for the children of Gaza appeal as a result of the conflict.



H&M raised money in Australia through its online store, which provided funds to support the children most in need globally, such as emergency support for Ukraine.

## LOUIS VUITTON

As a global partner of UNICEF, Louis Vuitton helps bring lifesaving humanitarian support to vulnerable children all over the world, including through UNICEF's emergency programs, responding swiftly to emergencies or catastrophes around the world.



In 2023, CyberCX partnered with UNICEF Australia, delivering their services and expertise to create a safer, more secure online environment.



For each passenger booked on a Globus tour, Globus donates to UNICEF Australia, helping children where the need is greatest. In 2023, Globus reached an incredible fundraising milestone of \$100,000 via customer bookings, supporting children to survive and thrive.



In 2023, Howatson+Company was appointed as a media and creative agency for UNICEF Australia. Howatson+Company contributes a huge amount of pro bono work and supports UNICEF with staff donations via workplace giving.



NEXT PRACTICE  
A NEW KIND

UNICEF Australia and Next Practice partnered to support the maternal and neonatal health program in Papua New Guinea. The Partnership program, Next Aid, is committed to providing funds that improve maternal, newborn and child healthcare. It focuses on contributing to Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccinations, helping children in the region to thrive and fulfil their potential.



During 2023, eBay Australia actively involved its customers in supporting UNICEF's emergency response to a succession of global crises. Contributions were facilitated by eBay customers utilising the donation at checkout option.



On the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, Goodman's staff, customers and investors supported UNICEF's ongoing emergency response through the Goodman Foundation.

## IKEA Australia

Through its active workplace engagement program and by providing expertise and skills in recruitment, transformation, and leadership, IKEA Australia has continued to provide valuable support to UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassador program.



Since 2019, Pandora has been supporting UNICEF through its limited-edition Charms for Change. Together, Pandora and UNICEF provide young people, especially girls, with the tools and opportunities they need to fulfil their potential.



Through UNICEF's global Change for Good program, which enables passengers to donate foreign and local currency, and Frequent Flyer incentives, Qantas has raised more than \$38 million to support UNICEF's work over the past 33 years.



Sims Limited made a significant donation to UNICEF's emergency relief efforts in Syria and Türkiye following the earthquakes. In addition, Sims Limited launched an employee appeal to raise further funds for families affected by the disaster.



The PayPal Giving Fund helps people support their favourite charities online. In 2023, the PayPal Giving Fund provided UNICEF Australia with the opportunity to be the featured charity at the Give at Checkout, and they spotlighted UNICEF's campaigns and appeals for children in emergencies.



In 2023, Rio Tinto supported UNICEF with emergency funding for Madagascar, helping to provide thousands of children and families with lifesaving assistance and support.



Travel Money Oz supports UNICEF Australia through their foreign coin collection program, Small Change, Big Difference. Through this program, individuals donate foreign coins to support UNICEF's work protecting children around the world.



P&O Cruises continued to support the Saving Lives, Spreading Smiles program, which provides funding to support the protection, health and wellbeing of mothers and newborns in the Pacific region. The program has helped to reach over 26,000 mothers and their newborns in Papua New Guinea alone, providing neonatal support, health education and preventing health complications or childbirth mortality.



To commemorate 100 years of Rotary service in Australia and New Zealand, Rotary's Australasian Centenary Project, Rotary Give Every Child A Future, vaccinates some of the most disadvantaged children across the Pacific in collaboration with UNICEF.



Westpac's Safer Children, Safer Communities program supports programs in Cambodia and Thailand to strengthen service delivery in the criminal justice and social welfare sectors and create safe online products and services for children.

### Working with our partners for rapid emergency response

UNICEF Australia extends our deepest gratitude to the companies, organisations, workplace giving programs, staff, and customers that have shown their ongoing commitment to children during emergencies. We want to thank the following companies that raised over \$50,000:



FOREVER NEW



Macquarie Group  
Foundation



**Thank you to the organisations that contributed through appeals and directly supported programs in 2023, including:** Adyen, Atlassian Pty Ltd, BHP, BioPak Packaging, Canva, Google, ING Bank, Mastercard Loyalty Solutions, Microsoft Australia, Origin Foundation, Quayclean Australia, REA Group, VISA.

**Special thanks to Fitzpatrick & Co Advisory for their pro bono strategic external relations advice.**

We want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supports us through Champions for Children – our small to medium-sized businesses committed to making a positive change in the lives of children. As a non-profit organisation that relies solely on voluntary donations, our ability to fulfil our mission to help vulnerable children depends on the unwavering commitment of our partners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the stakeholders, companies, and staff who generously contributed to UNICEF Australia in 2023, enabling us to continue our vital work.



# Community fundraising support



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE** Dance Festival For Ukraine, Photography: Clinton Bradbury. Doctor Rob Baume, a passionate UNICEF supporter.

Every day, children around the world are facing challenges that no child should endure. Whether it's the war in Gaza, earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, or cyclones in the Pacific, our amazing supporters are helping to make a difference by fundraising in their community.

In 2023, we had over 1,000 supporters put up their hand to fundraise. From setting themselves a physical challenge, cooking up a storm, or hosting an event, these supporters raised vital funds to help UNICEF be there for children even in the toughest-to-reach places.

## Supporting emergencies around the world

With an unprecedented number of humanitarian emergencies unfolding around the world, our supporters and their communities stepped up and raised much-needed funds. Here are some of their inspiring stories.

### Ukraine

February 2023 marked one year of war in Ukraine. It was an anniversary no one wanted, but our supporters knew it was not the time to look away when children in Ukraine need help more than ever.

Thanks to our committed supporters like the WA Classical Ballet Teacher's Association, UNICEF has strengthened our ongoing presence in Ukraine and has provided the children in Ukraine with access to safe water, sanitation and healthcare, even after infrastructure was damaged or destroyed.

Following the incredible response to their Dance Festival for Ukraine in 2022, the WA Classical Ballet Teacher's Association once again brought the dance community of Perth together to raise money to support children and their families impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Over 200 dancers performed in this year's festival, which included two incredible multi-genre and multi-cultural dance concerts. This event raised \$25,000, bringing their total raised for Ukraine to \$50,000.

### Twice the Doctor: One doctor's mission to make twice the impact

Twice the Doctor was created by Doctor Rob Baume, a passionate UNICEF supporter who has now raised over \$500,000 for UNICEF through the foundation.

The foundation's fundraising initiative, Doctor's Day in May, calls on medical practitioners around Australia to "virtually volunteer" in their workplace for any chosen day in May and donate the day's wages to help deliver healthcare programs to communities in need worldwide. By joining forces, these doctors are utilising their collective power to create a more significant and efficient impact for those in need.

In 2023, Twice the Doctor celebrated ten incredible years of helping people around the world. In the next ten years, Rob hopes to see the endeavour expand significantly, with many more doctors involved and contributing to a worthwhile cause.

And to the doctors who have already generously supported, Rob has a few words to say, "Be proud of yourselves and the huge amount of extra medical care you have provided for people worldwide, in addition to your local patients!"

Thank you, Rob and the generous supporters of Twice the Doctor, who have made a lasting difference for families and children across the world.



**TOP LEFT** Tim, who is a kindergarten teacher in South Australia, shaved his hair and beard to raise money for UNICEF Australia.

**TOP RIGHT** Gisele hosted a sausage sizzle to raise money for the Syria and Türkiye Earthquake appeal.

### Syria and Türkiye

UNICEF has been on the ground in Syria for more than 50 years and in Türkiye for more than 70. Thanks to our incredible supporters, we were able to provide lifesaving services and support to 5.6 million children and their families affected by the earthquakes in Syria and 4.7 million in Türkiye.

This wouldn't have been possible without the incredible response

from the Australian community. Supporters of all ages and backgrounds united to help make a difference in the lives of children impacted by the earthquake, including primary school student, Esra, who asked his principal, Mr Thomas, to help.

Esra's school community went on to raise almost \$15,000 to help children impacted by the emergency.



### Gaza

It's been incredible seeing the different ways our supporters have challenged themselves to raise funds for Gaza. From shaving their heads to swimming the length of Gaza to completing ultra-marathons, they've stepped out of their comfort zones to help make a difference.

One of these incredible fundraisers is Australian National University student Gracie, who managed to keep smiling whilst running 140km in 24 hours to raise funds for the children of Gaza.

Wearing her UNICEF Australia singlet with pride, Gracie raised \$3,500.

To Mr Thomas,

I hope my letter finds you well. I am sure you have seen on the news that Southern Turkey and Northern Syria have had a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Many people have died, and many people are still under broken buildings. It is very cold in this part of Turkey at the moment. It is snowing and so many people have lost their homes and their belongings.

It makes me feel very sad and I also feel lucky and grateful to live in Australia. I am a third generation Australian with Turkish heritage and because of this I would like to raise awareness to my school. With your permission and advice I would like to raise money to help the people who are suffering.

I was thinking of having a stall and selling Turkish things such as Turkish delight, jams and honey, and evil eye bracelets or key rings. Another idea I had was to have a Doner Kebab Day at school for lunch. My grandfather has a doner machine and knows people who have all of the ingredients for a day like this.

I am hoping you could maybe let me know what you think and maybe we could have a discussion when you have time.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards  
Esra



# Our supporters

In 2023, new and protracted emergencies devastated the lives of children and communities around the world, from catastrophic flooding in Libya and the earthquakes in Syria, Türkiye, Afghanistan and Morocco to devastating conflicts in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine. Each crisis has had an immense toll on children and the systems they rely on. At a time when the future for children seems so uncertain, our community of supporters are helping UNICEF be there for children when they need us most.

The compassion of our supporters has helped UNICEF work towards ensuring children have the best chance in life, and during times of emergencies, we can be on the ground responding to the immediate needs of children in just 48 hours when disaster strikes.

Together, we've achieved amazing things. Despite the uncertainty so many children face today, more children are surviving than ever before. From 2000 to 2022, the global number of children dying before their fifth birthday has declined by 51 per cent.

Behind these numbers are the stories of midwives and skilled health workers helping mothers safely deliver their newborns. One such midwife is Sung Thi from Vietnam, who does house-to-house visits to pregnant women who plan to deliver at home.

Teams of dedicated health workers are vaccinating and protecting children against deadly diseases, and community health workers are making home visits to support families to ensure the right health and nutrition support for children. But none of this is possible without the kind support from our supporters.

As a charity run entirely on voluntary contributions, our supporters are the backbone of everything we do. To our community of Global Parents, our regular givers who support us through The Wiggles Brave Little Books and Paddington's Postcards, to everyone who gives so generously during our emergency appeals, our community fundraisers and our inspirational supporters who plan to leave a lasting legacy through a gift in their Will – we are truly grateful.

**“I decided to start supporting UNICEF Australia and leave a gift in my Will because I wanted to help disadvantaged children around the world. Children are often the innocent victims in situations that are not of their own making, and they pay a heavy price.”**

– Chris Micheal,  
UNICEF Australia supporter

The kindness of our supporters is not only a lifeline for families; it gives children a brighter future.

Thank you for helping us to create the foundation children and young people need to thrive. Because every child has the right to be healthy, educated and safe. No matter what.



## Chris Micheal

Chris Micheal has been a supporter of UNICEF Australia for two decades now. Passionate about helping children in need, Chris's support of his favourite charities has made a tangible difference in the lives of many.



## Karen Lock

In October 2023, Karen Lock completed a five-day cycling journey in Cambodia, covering 65 kms per day to raise funds for UNICEF Australia. Inspired by her trip, she became a Global Parent and hopes to continue making a positive impact.

# Our people



We have a team of passionate and dedicated people who are driven to improve the lives of every child. Their commitment and wellbeing are essential to achieving our goals. This is why we are actively working towards creating an inclusive workplace where our people can thrive at work and at home.

## A growing and engaged team backed by evidence

With our team growing 22 per cent in 2023, our approach to onboarding became instrumental in equipping newcomers with everything they needed to get started with a welcoming yet empowering experience, evidenced by a 92 per cent engagement score measured throughout their first six months.

We embedded multiple measurements throughout our employee journey, providing valid and reliable evidence on how our people feel. This enabled us to genuinely support them by offering adjustments, policies and practices that reflect their needs.

Our focus on growing our team through challenging experiences and cross-skilling for the future has resulted in a threefold increase in internal movements from 2022 to 2023. Our work is evidenced by continuous measurement of our team's sustainable engagement,

growing from 90 per cent to 97 per cent, placing UNICEF Australia at the high-performing level compared to peers and the general industry.

## Unwavering commitment to team wellbeing

Our approach to wellbeing lies in creating a secure and supportive environment. We embrace flexibility and agility in our work methods and collaboration, maintaining a truly hybrid work environment with core days at the office and time for deep thinking at home becoming an essential part of our culture.

In 2023, we introduced a measure of Organisational Wellbeing through an external evidence-based survey performing above benchmark. This enabled us to identify critical areas of support to embed into our wellbeing programs. We remain committed to continuing to humanise work.

## Nurturing inclusion and genuine care

Embracing the diverse nature of our team and their families is a priority for us. Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group, with the support of our Executive Leadership, continue to develop a targeted plan to support our people by ensuring they all feel heard, considered, and able to reach their full potential. We invested in cultural capability and disability training to better

## Team profile in 2023



116 UNICEF Australia team members

- 99 full-time employees
- 17 part-time employees
- + 9 young ambassadors (this is not counted in the 116)
- + 15 additional interns

## Team member engagement 97%

(Pulse Survey 2023)

# 100%

Of our team believe strongly in the goals and objectives of UNICEF Australia

# 73%

Wellbeing index (above benchmarks of 70)

understand the communities we serve. We introduced floating public holidays, ensuring all team members could choose an alternate day of celebration or significance to them.

**“Our flexible culture is of immense value. It fosters a sense of trust and empowerment and aligns with our need to work outside of normal hours for various meetings. It also allows for team members to have a healthy work life balance.”**



# Our ambassadors



**LEFT** Pat Cummins India. © Sam Ruttyn /News Corp Australia/2023  
**ABOVE** Emma McKeon.  
 © UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied

Our dedicated group of Ambassadors offer their time and energy free of charge to provide trusted voices to our campaigns and reach new audiences.

Special thanks to UNICEF Australia Ambassadors Pat Cummins, The Wiggles, Adam Liaw, Carrie Bickmore, Ken Done, Callan McAuliffe, Tara Moss, Erica Packer, Professor Fiona Stanley, Dr Susan Carland, Rachael Haynes, Edwina Bartholomew, Emma McKeon and new ambassador Rae Johnston. With their support, we have been able to achieve extensive coverage across Australia and unlock true impact through awareness and fundraising.

## 2023 highlights

- Nine Ambassadors came together to support the Syria and Türkiye earthquake appeal. Edwina Bartholomew, Emma McKeon, The Wiggles, Ken Done, Susan Carland, Tammin Sursok, Tara Moss, and Zameer Gill all raised awareness of the emergency appeal, reaching over 8 million people.
- *Sunrise* host Edwina Bartholomew was the Ambassador for the 2023 Mother's Day campaign, one of the most successful Inspired Gift campaigns to date. The focus for the year was to fund delivery kits in Papua New Guinea to ensure mums have access to adequate equipment needed for a safe birth. Her powerful video raised over \$15,000 in funds and reached over 1 million people.
- Australian cricket captain Pat Cummins went to Borroloola (Northern Territory) to meet some incredible kids at Indi Kindi, an early learning childhood program in partnership with the Moriarty Foundation. The trip was covered exclusively and extensively by News Corp and Pat's own partners, including WeAre8 and Cricket Australia, reaching over 50 million Australians.
- Pat Cummins also visited a primary school in Lucknow, India, to see a learning-by-doing program, that encourages children to stay in school by teaching them practical skills, like turning rubbish into toys. Esteemed journalist Greg Baum attended the trip visit and wrote about the program in *The Age*, reaching over 12 million Australians.



© UNICEF Burundi/2023/Muco

- Digital, broadcast and TV journalist Rae Johnston was onboarded as UNICEF Australia Ambassador. She has been wonderfully supportive of various campaigns, including participating in A Minute of Loudness at a local school on World Children's Day and hosting UNICEF Australia's first-ever podcast series, NextGen.
- TV presenter and cook Adam Liaw visited Burundi. The east African country is often described as the poorest country in the world, with one of the highest malnutrition rates. Adam saw a vast range of UNICEF programs addressing issues of climate change and nutrition.
- For International Day of the Girl, teen pro skateboarder Chloe Covell and UNICEF Australia Ambassador Emma McKeon highlighted the importance of girls achieving their dreams through a series of social media posts.
- Our Ambassadors were instrumental in raising awareness of the messaging around these campaigns to help make the world a better place for every child.

**“I've been a UNICEF Australia Ambassador for about 10 years now. And my time spent cooking with local mothers in Burundi is probably my favourite experience of anything I've ever done with UNICEF. It was a wonderful day and fabulous to see the impact on the lives of children.”**

– Adam Liaw, UNICEF Australia Ambassador



Primary school children participate in UNICEF Australia's World Children's Day event, Minute of Loudness. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran



# Amplifying our work

In 2023, UNICEF Australia engaged with millions of Australians through owned and earned media to ensure children in crisis, no matter how far away or close to home, were not forgotten.

The stories brought to diverse audiences through all their favourite news sources shared the real faces and experiences of children, such as those living through the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, to families impacted by the destruction of earthquakes in Syria, Türkiye and Afghanistan. Plus, the devastating flooding in Libya and those suffering prolonged conflict, drought and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa. There was not a news network across radio, TV, print or online that did not include a story about UNICEF's support for children in 2023.

Our hero campaign, "Always There in Emergencies", received the UNICEF Global Inspire Award for best brand marketing campaign. This recognition is a testament to the incredible growth

in brand awareness we've achieved and to our ongoing efforts to spread a message of hope and support to children and families who need us the most.

Australians around the world and at home helped us highlight some of the most pressing issues for children, including conflict and climate impacts and the need for basic essentials like clean water and sanitation, healthcare, mental health services, child protection, and education.

One of our most loved Australians, our nation's Cricket Captain and UNICEF Australia Ambassador Pat Cummins, took journalists with him to highlight the educational support in remote Borroloola in the Northern Territory and in Uttar Pradesh in India.

On World Children's Day, UNICEF Australia launched its first-ever Minute of Loudness campaign, encouraging children across the country to speak up about issues that matter to them.

Across different states, our Ambassadors Edwina Bartholomew, Emma McKeon, Rae Johnston and Carrie Bickmore encouraged kids to 'get loud' in an unforgettable event.

At the state, regional and local levels, the media also helped UNICEF Australia champion the rights of children to be able to access basic services just by owning a birth certificate and to be protected from online harms and the impacts of climate change. In December 2023, we launched our pioneering campaign "Climate Change is Changing Childhood" to demonstrate that climate change is a child rights crisis and highlight how UNICEF must mitigate and respond to climate pressures. The campaign shows how childhood has changed over the years and the impacts of climate change on children, both internationally and in our own backyard. The campaign features Radiohead's 'No Surprises' track, which the band generously donated.



© UNICEF Australia/2023/Supplied

## Media coverage of our work



**James Elder in Gaza; Peta Barns in Syria/Türkiye**  
Australian UNICEF team members reported from emergency zones, including Ukraine, Syria, Türkiye and Gaza, to inform the community about the living situation for children and families surviving the crises, the support UNICEF is delivering and how Australians can help.



**Pat Cummins in India**  
UNICEF Australia Ambassador Pat Cummins used his spare time away from cricket to visit UNICEF programs at home and abroad, including a 'learning by doing' education program in India designed to encourage school attendance and reduce children being drawn into child labour.



**Ann Sherry's article for International Women's Day**  
Thought leadership from our CEO and Chair appeared in major metro newspapers at key moments in the year. On International Women's Day, our Chair, Ann Sherry, reflected on the importance of equal access to education for girls and boys in order to break gender norms.



## Our board



### Ms Ann Sherry AO

Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology

- Appointed 15 November 2017
- Board and Governance, Remuneration and Ethics Committee Chair
- Attendance at board meetings: 5/5



### Mr Nigel Andrade

Partner and elected member of Kearney's Global Board

- Appointed 19 March 2019
- Governance, Remuneration and Ethics Committee member
- Attendance at board meetings: 5/5



### Ms Jacqui De Lacy

Chief Global Development Officer of Abt Associates

- Appointed 9 May 2018
- Programs Committee Chair
- Attendance at board meetings: 4/5



### Ms Suzanne Dvorak

Former Managing Director of Bupa Villages and Aged Care

- Appointed 8 March 2017
- Programs Committee member
- Attendance at board meetings: 3/5



### Mr Toby Hall

Chair of Sana Health Group and Integral Diagnostics

- Appointed 29 August 2017
- Audit and Risk Committee Chair
- Attendance at board meetings: 5/5



### Ms Tharani Jegatheeswaran

Lead Partner of Deloitte Australia's Social Impact Consulting Practice

- Appointed 19 March 2019
- Audit and Risk Committee member
- Attendance at board meetings: 5/5



### Ms Lesley Podesta

Partner at SHK Asia Pacific

- Appointed 26 May 2021
- Governance, Remuneration and Ethics Committee member and Programs Committee member
- Attendance at board meetings: 5/5



### Ms Sandra Rouse

Chief Financial Officer of TEG

- Appointed 22 May 2019
- Audit and Risk Committee member
- Attendance at board meetings: 4/5



### Ms Olivia Wirth

Executive Chair of Myer

- Appointed 25 August 2015
- Attendance at board meetings: 2/5

The directors of UNICEF Australia serve voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration for their services as directors. Expenses incurred by directors on behalf of the company are reimbursed on a cost only basis.

## Governance

The Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited is committed to achieving best practice in our management of program funding and corporate governance.

A Corporate Governance Statement is available on our website which outlines the establishment and detailed governance framework of UNICEF Australia.

Our company's directors are committed to adding value to the organisation by bringing their wide range of skills and experience to the board. Brief details on each of the directors are included on Page 46 of this report.



UNICEF Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and applies the principles of the ACFID Code of Conduct which sets the minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for member agencies. UNICEF Australia self-assesses against the code annually.

We are also committed to ACFID's Fundraising Charter, which requires that we are ethical and accountable in how we use fundraising information and communicate to our stakeholders.



### ACNC

UNICEF Australia is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and regulated under the ACNC Act 2012.

As a large charity, we comply with the ACNC governance standards. As we send funds overseas, we also adhere to the ACNC External Conduct standards. Adherence to these standards is assured through ongoing internal review.

By applying the ACNC External Conduct Standards, we ensure that our activities align with our purposes. We are effective in controlling resources, reviewing overseas activities, and maintaining good record-keeping. Moreover, we minimise the risk of fraud and corruption and protect vulnerable individuals.



### Fundraising Institute Australia

UNICEF Australia is a member of the Fundraising Institute Australia and is committed to adhering to the FIA Code, a self-regulatory code of conduct for fundraising in Australia.



### Accreditation

UNICEF Australia is accredited with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade. Accreditation is a robust assessment of an organisation's practice in governance, program and partner management, community engagement, and financial accountability.

Gaining accreditation recognises that UNICEF Australia has the capacity and accountability to manage Australian Government funding and makes us eligible for grant funding through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program. In 2022, we were successful in achieving reaccreditation for a further five years.

### Risk Management

UNICEF Australia considers risk management an integral part of our organisational culture and an essential component of our strategic planning and decision making.

Our risk management policy and framework, which are aligned to ISO 31000, enhance the identification and flow of risks throughout the organisation, assigning responsibility to managing these risks and how they should be monitored and reported. While management maintains the responsibility for responding to risks, all staff are required to assist in identifying them.

UNICEF Australia recognises that cybersecurity is a significant risk that requires continuous management. The ever-present threat to our organisational data and security necessitates the implementation of increasingly sophisticated systems and processes to effectively mitigate the risks involved.

### Feedback and complaints

Anyone wishing to provide feedback or make a complaint can do so via email at [unicef@unicef.org.au](mailto:unicef@unicef.org.au) or via (02) 9261 2811. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID code member can also be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee. For information on how to make a complaint see [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)



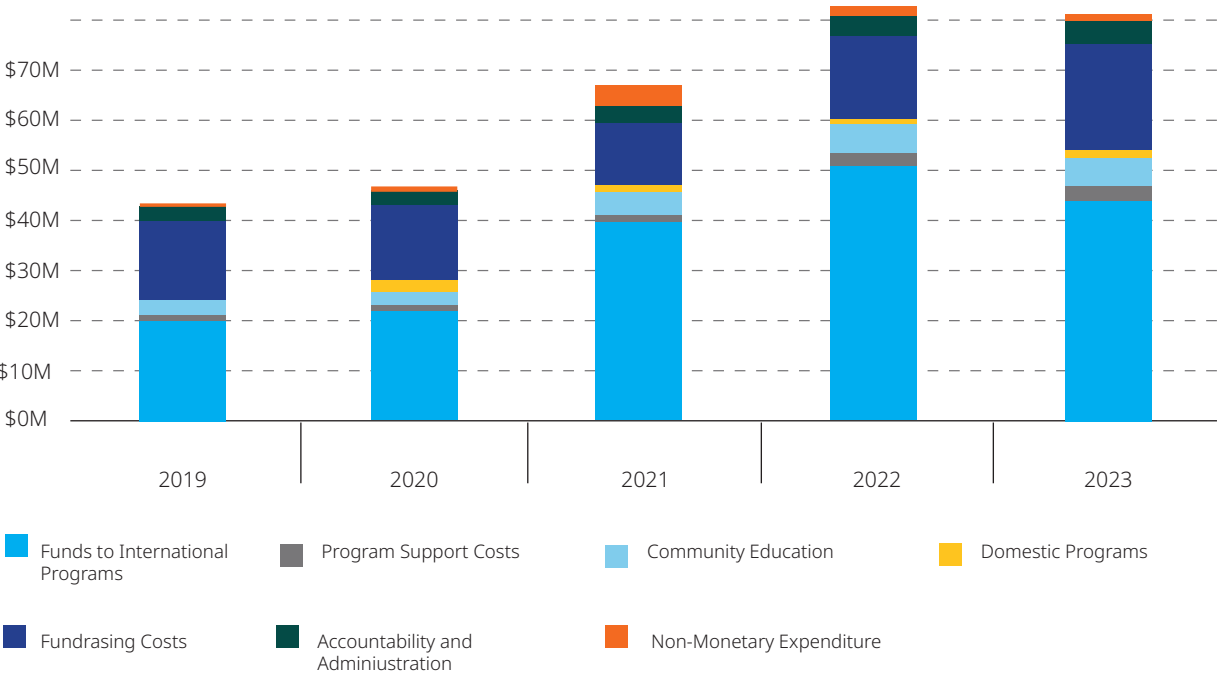
# Financial summary

In the face of new and ongoing conflicts and natural disasters, UNICEF Australia remained steadfast in its commitment to protect the world's most vulnerable children, no matter what. Throughout 2023, the organisation continued to provide critical humanitarian

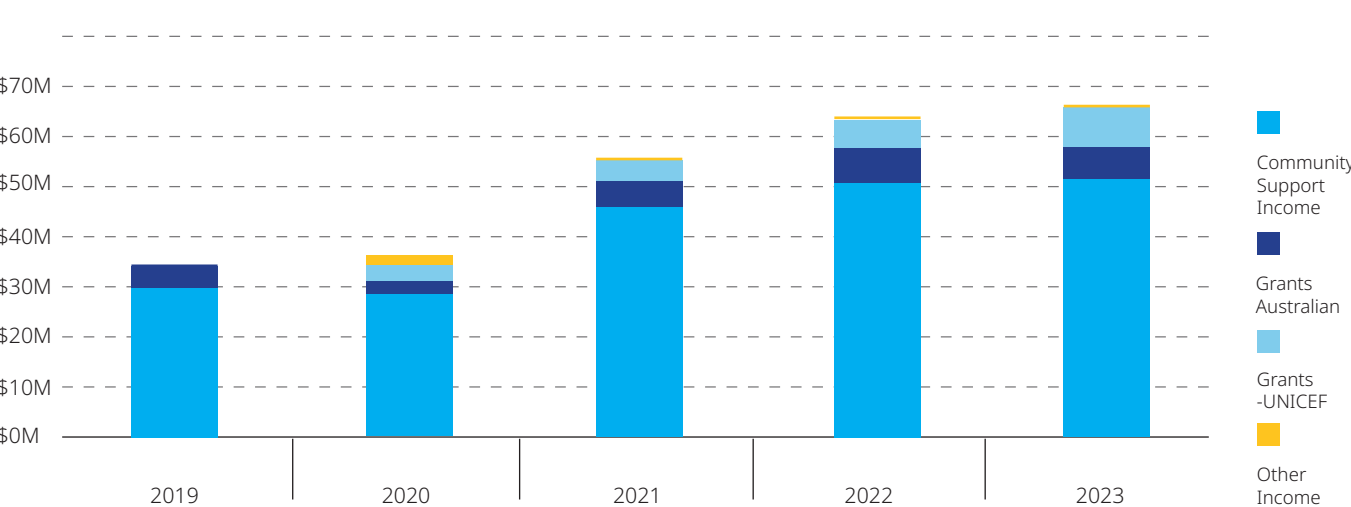
assistance and support for long-term development projects around the world. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, it was a record year for UNICEF Australia in terms of income, which enabled us to expand our programs and reach more children in need with our

overall contribution to children being \$41.5 million. As an organisation run entirely on voluntary contributions, we sincerely thank our generous supporters for their powerful commitment to our work for children around the world.

Five-year expenditure trend (by type)



Five-year revenue trend (by source)



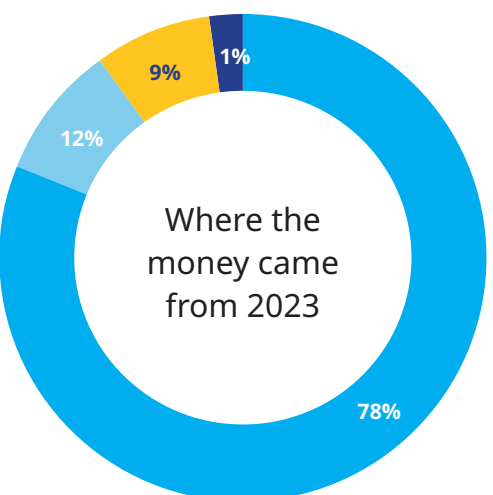
Three-year-old Mashkat has her mid-upper arm circumference measured to screen her for signs of malnutrition at a UNICEF-supported health facility in central Afghanistan. © UNICEF/UNI472133/Karimi

## Where the money comes from

UNICEF Australia recorded its highest-ever revenue result in 2023, with total income rising to \$64.3 million, a 4 per cent increase on the prior year. Community support income rose by 3 per cent, owing to increases in corporate and philanthropic giving, together with a rise in donations from individuals and families across Australia.

We continue to hold full accreditation under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), through which we receive annual funding to support a range of early childhood development, child protection, child survival, and water and sanitation programs in the East Asia and Pacific Region. In 2023, DFAT revenues were \$4.9 million, with a further \$2.9 million recognised as deferred revenue at 31 December 2023 and available for use in 2024.

UNICEF Australia receives grant funding from UNICEF to support fundraising activities that generate a strong long-term return on investment. In 2023, this income was predominantly used to fund the acquisition of new Global Parents, support our appeals and our ongoing legacy and bequests fundraising program, all of which generate funding for UNICEF's global programs.



\*Community Support Income includes donations and bequests from the Australian public and corporations, both monetary and non-monetary. Grants - Australian includes funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and Other Australian grants. Other Income includes investment revenue, commercial activities revenue and other income.



Where the money goes

UNICEF Australia’s contribution to children includes funds for international and domestic programs, local program support costs and community education expenditures, which inform and educate Australians on child rights. Through the generous donations of our supporters, UNICEF Australia’s contribution to children totaled \$41.5 million in 2023 and \$124.7 million across 2021-2023; representing 80 per cent of overall expenditure throughout the three-year period excluding non-monetary costs and amounts funded by UNICEF grants.

In February 2023, the Australian community responded generously to our appeal following the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. Their overwhelming support enabled us to contribute \$6.4 million to UNICEF’s vital assistance programs, which provided safe water, hygiene kits, vaccines, and psychosocial support to those affected. Through the overall response, UNICEF was able to reach 5.6 million people impacted by the disaster.

The increased hostilities in the Gaza Strip since October 2023 have had a profound impact on children and families as they endured immense suffering due to the widespread destruction, continuous attacks, displacement, and acute shortages of basic needs like food, water, and medical supplies. In the face of such adversity, we’re profoundly thankful to our donors, whose generous support has enabled us to contribute \$6.4 million in 2023, providing children and families in Gaza with emergency humanitarian aid.

Last year, UNICEF Australia also provided \$5 million to support communities impacted by floods in Madagascar and Libya and to children and families affected by ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan.

With the support of the Australian community and the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UNICEF Australia contributed \$8.7 million to priority programs across the East Asia & Pacific region.

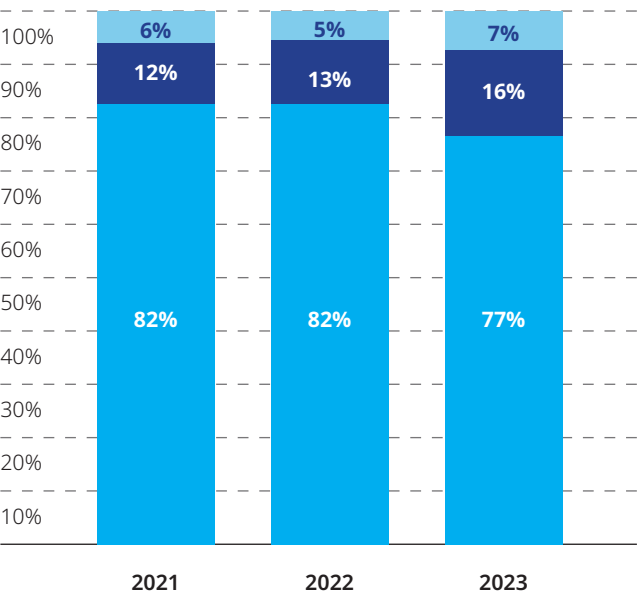
Domestically, we invested \$1.2 million in a range of domestic programs. Together with the Office for Women and Parents at Work, UNICEF Australia developed National Work & Family

Standards, providing a framework for organisations to become more family-inclusive. Additionally, UNICEF Australia sustained its advocacy for Australian children through early childhood education and adolescent skills development programs.

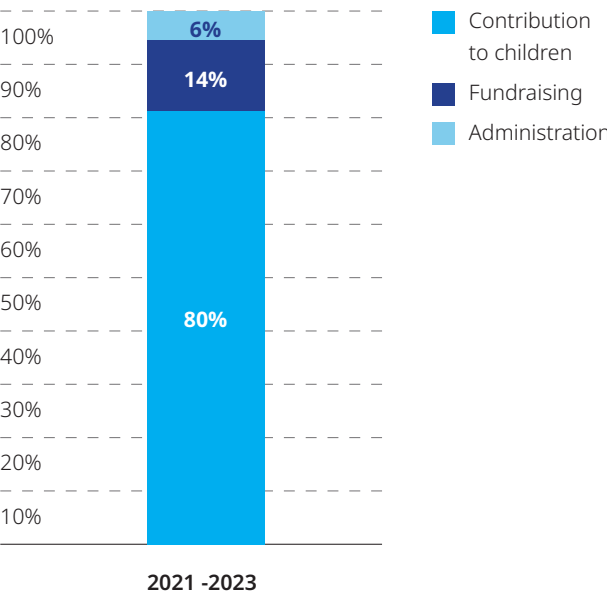
To grow our impact, additional investments were made in high-performing fundraising activities with overall fundraising expenditure increasing from \$12.7 to \$16.3 million. The increase was funded partially through an increase in UNICEF fundraising grants (2023: \$7.7 million; 2022: \$5.3 million). The uplift in investment together with the generosity of donors has resulted in the highest ever year of community support income for UNICEF Australia.

Accountability and administration expenditure are required to run the organisation efficiently. It includes such items as staff costs for finance, human resources and administration, as well as audit fees and insurance. Accountability and administration costs as a proportion of operating expenditure rose to 7 per cent in 2023 (2022: 5 per cent) following additional investments in staffing and infrastructure to support the long-term growth of the organisation.

ANNUAL RATIOS



3 YEAR AVERAGE



\*Percentages shown as a proportion of operating expenditure which excludes non-monetary expenditure and costs funded through UNICEF grants.

Financials

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE		
Donations and Bequests		
Monetary	49,033,601	47,179,937
Non-Monetary	976,271	1,431,720
	50,009,872	48,611,657
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	4,939,637	5,994,547
Other Australian	917,137	1,347,991
UNICEF	7,930,713	5,287,952
	13,787,487	12,630,490
Commercial Activities Income		
	74,114	397,960
Investment Income		
	391,608	114,185
Other Income		
	44,451	267,296
TOTAL REVENUE	64,307,532	62,021,588
EXPENDITURE		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
Funds to international programs		
UNICEF Australia Priority Programs	8,677,711	12,676,331
UNICEF global programs	25,495,059	26,632,963
	34,172,770	39,309,294
Program support costs	2,201,232	1,861,903
Community Education		
	4,108,053	4,559,762
Fundraising Costs		
Public	14,304,948	11,153,102
Government, multilateral and private sector	1,968,520	1,608,644
	16,273,468	12,761,746
Accountability and Administration		
	3,755,372	3,126,026
Non-Monetary Expenditure		
	976,271	1,431,720
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	61,487,166	63,050,451
Domestic Programs		
	1,246,654	943,947
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	62,733,821	63,994,398
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,573,711	(1,972,810)
Other Comprehensive Income		
	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(1,573,711)	(1,972,810)

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,450,945	11,066,168
Trade and other receivables	559,888	444,980
Prepayments	5,638,478	3,801,777
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>22,649,311</b>	15,314,940
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	287,470	-
Property, plant and equipment	2,476,226	2,923,661
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>2,763,696</b>	2,923,661
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,413,007</b>	18,238,601
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	7,452,951	6,352,233
Deferred revenue	8,801,445	4,028,419
Lease payable	368,827	331,096
Provisions	600,051	621,491
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>17,223,274</b>	11,333,239
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Lease payable	2,135,583	2,504,410
Provisions	223,610	144,123
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>2,359,193</b>	2,648,533
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>19,582,467</b>	13,981,772
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,830,540</b>	4,256,829
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	<b>5,830,540</b>	4,256,829
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>5,830,540</b>	4,256,829

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Reserves \$
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	6,229,639
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,972,810)
Other comprehensive income	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>4,256,829</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,573,711
Other comprehensive income	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>5,830,540</b>

- Notes:
1. The Summarised Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID website at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au) . The Summarised Financial Report comprising the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2023 are an extract of the Annual Financial Report of the Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited (“UNICEF Australia”) for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Summarised Financial Report was extracted for the purpose of presenting the summarised financial position and performance of UNICEF Australia to its members in the 2023 Annual Report. UNICEF Australia is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of each member of the company is limited to \$1. UNICEF Australia is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. The Annual Financial Report of UNICEF Australia complies with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The Summarised Financial Report has been prepared under the historical cost basis and are presented in Australian dollars, which is the company's functional and presentation currency.
  2. For a copy of the full financial report for the year ending 31 December 2023, please contact us directly on telephone (02) 9261 2811; or email [unicef@unicef.org.au](mailto:unicef@unicef.org.au)





# Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited

## Report on the Summary Financial Statements

### Opinion

We report on the **Summary Financial Statements** of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited (the Company) as at and for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Summary Financial Statements are derived from the audited financial report of the Company (the Audited Financial Report).

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Statements of *Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited* are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements.

- The **Summary Financial Statements** comprise:
- Summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023
  - Summary statement of comprehensive income, Summary statement of changes in equity, and Summary of cash flows for the year then ended]
  - Related notes.

The Summary Financial Statements are contained in the Annual Report on pages 51 to 53.

### Scope of the Summary Financial Statements

The Summary Financial Statements do not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures* applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Report and our auditor's report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 15 May 2024.

### Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

We draw attention to Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements, which describes the basis of preparation.

The Summary Financial Statements have been prepared to assist the Directors of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited for the purpose of complying with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of



Conduct. As a result, the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

This Auditor's Report is intended solely for the Directors of Directors of Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited and ACFID and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Directors of the Company and ACFID. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this Auditor's Report, or on the Summary Financial Statements to which it relates, to any person other than the Directors of the Company and ACFID or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

### Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in Australian Committee for UNICEF Limited's Annual Report which is provided in addition to the Summary Financial Statements and this Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Summary Financial Statements does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Summary Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Summary Financial Statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

### Responsibility of the Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the Summary Financial Statements, including their derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Company as at and for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Auditor's responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Financial Statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

KPMG

Daniel Robinson

Partner

Sydney

15 May 2024

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In Papua New Guinea seven-year-old Rhoda attends a UNICEF-supported school. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Moran

**unicef**   
AUSTRALIA  
for every child

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